

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 669 without my signature.

This bill amends current law in an effort to ensure that continuous recreation corridors created as part of the Great California Delta Trail are eligible for grants and incentives made available by Proposition 84 and Section 75065(c) of the Public Resources Code.

That statute expressly allows these funds to be used for regional and local planning purposes to: 1) promote water conservation, 2) reduce automobile use and fuel consumption, 3) encourage greater infill and compact development, 4) protect natural resources and agricultural lands, and 5) revitalize urban and community centers.

My January 2007 Budget Proposal appropriated these funds to the Department of Conservation to develop, in cooperation with the Resources Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, planning incentives and programs to further the local and regional planning goals outlined in the bond. Unfortunately, the final adopted budget did not include these provisions.

By making continuous regional recreation corridors directly eligible for these local and regional planning funds, this bill is premature. It seems consistent with statute to make regional or local land use plans that incorporate regional recreation corridors as one of its components eligible for funding made available pursuant to Section 75065(c).

Making regional recreation corridors directly eligible for this funding deserves a broader policy debate as we work together to determine the best use of these funds in the future.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger